

Message Text

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14
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

ACDA-07 DEAE-00 IO-13 JUSE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 OES-06

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R 261036Z OCT 76
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5193
INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY RANGOON
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
CINCPAC HONOLULU
DIA WASHDC

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CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, SNAR, TH
SUBJ: PRESS CONFERENCE BY KRIANGSAK

SUMMARY. IN OCTOBER 25 PRESS CONFERENCE GEN KRIANGSAK STRESSES
THAT OCTOBER 6 COUP WAS STAGED BY PROFESSIONAL MILITARY MEN
WITHOUT POLITICAL AMBITION, AND THAT NEW CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD
NOT BE A "PUPPET" OF THE MILITARY. KRIANGSAK COVERED OTHER TOPICS
INCLUDING FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND A NEW ANTI-NARCOTICS CAMPAIGN.
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOW. END SUMMARY.

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1. SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S ADVISORY COUNCIL,

GENERAL KRIANGSAK CHAMANAN, GAVE A PRESS CONFERENCE ON OCTOBER 25 COVERING A NUMBER OF TOPICS. IN AN APPARENT CONTINUATION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS' ATTEMPTS TO JUSTIFY THE OCTOBER 6 COUP TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC, KRIANGSAK ARGUED THAT THE COUP WAS EFFECTED WITH NO RPT NO PRIOR PLANNING. HE SAID THAT THOSE INVOLVED WERE PROFESSIONAL MILITARY MEN WITH NO POLITICAL AMBITIONS WHOSE ONLY DESIRE WAS TO SAVE THE COUNTRY AND DEMOCRACY. HE SAID THAT THE ACTIONS OF THE NARC TO DATE DEMONSTRATED THAT THE MILITARY WAS SERIOUS IN ITS INTENTION TO TURN ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY OVER TO A CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HE SAID THAT THE ROLE OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S ADVISORY COUNCIL WILL BE TO SUPPORT AND ADVISE THE GOVERNMENT AND TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL SECURITY; IT WILL ALSO ACT AS A "SHIELD" FOR THE GOVERNMENT. KRIANGSAK CLAIMED THAT THE COUNCIL WOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH THE GOVERNMENT, AND THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT "WOULD NOT BE A PUPPET IN ANY WAY."

2. KRIANGSAK STATED THAT THAILAND WANTS GOOD RELATIONS WITH ITS NEIGHBORS, BUT ACCUSED VIETNAM OF BEING INSINCERE IN ITS STATEMENTS SUPPORTING PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE. HE SUGGESTED THAT VIETNAM CONSIDER ACCEPTING VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN THAILAND AS A SIGN THAT THEY ARE SINCERE IN WANTING IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH THAILAND. HE SAID (IN ENGLISH) THAT PREVIOUS RTG "ACCOMMODATION" TO THAILAND'S COMMUNIST NEIGHBORS FAILED TO STOP OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE IN THAILAND'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS, AND WAS AN "APPROACH OF WISHFUL THINKING" (SIC).

3. KRIANGSAK SAID THAT ONE OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT'S HIGHEST PRIORITIES WOULD BE TO COMBAT NARCOTICS. HE SAID THAT THE RTG PLANS TO SET UP "A STRONG AND EFFECTIVE AGENCY" FOR THIS PURPOSE, AND WOULD GO AFTER CORRUPT OFFICIALS AS WELL AS TRAFFICKERS. HE SAID THAT THAILAND HOPED TO GET COOPERATION FROM COUNTRIES WITH SIMILAR OBJECTIVES.

4. ANOTHER IMPORTANT PRIORITY WILL BE THE ELIMINATION OF CORRUPTION AMONG GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND POLITICIANS, AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROGRAMS TO FIGHT THE SPREAD OF COMMUNISM. HE SAID THAT IMPROVEMENTS IN THE ARMED FORCES AND A CONTINUATION OF COMMUNIST SUPPRESSION ACTIVITIES BY THE RTG WOULD COMPLEMENT THIS.

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WHITEHOUSE

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